

News Release
U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island



December 15, 2006

**Newport man who rammed undercover car
is sentenced to ten years in prison for a crack cocaine offense**

A federal judge today sentenced **Germaine Edelen**, 29, of Newport, to 126 months in federal prison for trafficking in crack cocaine. Newport and Middletown Police officers arrested Edelen last December after he rammed his car into an undercover police officer's van, seriously injuring a detective. That conduct lengthened Edelen's sentence by about four years.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which Edelen Senior U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres imposed in U.S. District Court, Providence.

At a plea hearing in June at which Edelen pleaded guilty, Assistant U.S. Attorney James H. Leavey said that the government could prove that, on December 14, 2005, Newport and Middletown Police officers conducting a drug-trafficking investigation tailed a vehicle that Edelen was driving into Middletown. When Edelen pulled into a donut shop drive-through lane, a Middletown Police cruiser pulled in behind his. As officers moved in to arrest Edelen, he accelerated and rammed into a Newport officer's unmarked van, which was blocking the other side of the drive-through lane. The officer in the van was injured and required back surgery.

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Police found in Edelen's vehicle about 15.7 grams of crack cocaine in 32 bags.

Because he rammed the undercover van while committing his offense and caused risk of injury to a law enforcement officer, Edelen's sentence was approximately four years longer than it otherwise would have been.

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